



# South Carolina's West Coast.

By Stephen Childress



## You know about South Carolina's stunning beaches along its East Coast. But did you know South Carolina has a West Coast?

Back in 1946, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decided the state needed a lake on its border with Georgia. Eight years, one million cubic yards of concrete and three million pounds of reinforced steel later, J. Strom Thurmond Lake (or Clarks Hill Lake as it was originally known) was born.

J. Strom Thurmond Dam was originally designed to ease flooding and provide electricity. However, this man-made marvel of engineering inadvertently created what would become one of the most beautiful, most visited lakes in the region. Each year, millions of people flock to J. Strom Thurmond Lake's 1,200 miles of shoreline to enjoy fishing, boating and the pristine park system that graces its beautiful banks.

### Hickory Knob State Resort Park

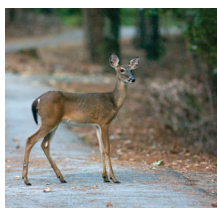
Scenic championship golf. Tennis. Canoeing. A beautiful 70-room lodge. With the perfect combination of amenities and incredible natural beauty, Hickory Knob State Resort Park is the only full-service resort in the South Carolina State Park system.

### Hamilton Branch State Recreation Area

Nature lovers rejoice. Some of the area's best camping, hiking and fishing lies along the shores of Hamilton Branch State Recreation Area. Throw in the fact that almost every campsite here is located right on the lake, and you've got the perfect place to kick back and enjoy South Carolina's wildlife.

### Sumter National Forest

If you really want to get back to nature, Sumter National Forest offers a secluded escape from the city and the suburbs. Home to dense forest and peaceful lakeside camping and hiking, this park is one of the most serene, most natural settings in the entire state. 🌲



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